

March 12, 2009

Congressman David Dreier 203 Cannon HOB Washington, D.C. 20515-0526

Dear Congressman Dreier:

San Antonio Community Hospital respectfully requests support in the amount of \$1,086,880 to help purchase needed equipment to be used in the diagnosis and treatment of our rapidly expanding population.

Project:

The hospital will purchase equipment that can be used currently and can be transferred to our planned new emergency department and bed tower when it is open in approximately three years. This equipment includes intravascular ultrasound equipment, an autotransfusion system that allows us to clean a patient's own blood and return it, a portable cardiac surgery bypass pump, a new 16 slice CT scanner to replace an old 4 slice CT scanner that can no longer be repaired, and a new digital mammography system.

This is a healthcare project that will enable the hospital to care for the needs of our growing patient population. San Bernardino County, a portion of which is located in the 26th Congressional District, is part of the Inland Empire of Southern California. The County has the second worst cardiac health in the state, ranking 57 out of 58 counties according to the California Department of Health. Part of the equipment for which we are seeking support will help us treat those cardiac patients.

This specific request is for \$1,086,880. Our total equipment cost for the year will be over \$2.4 million. In addition to the grant money requested, payment for this equipment will come from community donations, cash on hand, and operating revenue.

This project is a good use of taxpayer's money because it will help meet a critical health care need in our area while also addressing the long-term improvements that must be made to our hospital. Additionally, this request is consistent with Health Resources Services Administration Account, which seeks to improve access to and quality of health care services.

This equipment allows us to continue to improve the health of our minority population and the underserved in our region. Our service area consists of 59.8% Hispanics and 8% African-Americans. We are privileged to provide <u>all</u> people in our area quality healthcare service.

This equipment is part of our continuing effort to upgrade our 40 year old facility. As mentioned above, all of this equipment can and will be used in our planned new building.

San Antonio Community Hospital is grateful to be considered for support from the federal government. This project serves a great need at our hospital and will allow us to continue to provide the excellent healthcare our patients expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gordon

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Foundation President and Point of Contact

909-920-4962

bgordon@sach.org